STATE OF CONNECTICUT

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
or Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: __________________________ Historic: __________________________
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: __________________________ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 49 Crescent Street
4. OWNER(S): Middlesex Memorial Hospital __________________________ PUBLIC x PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: __________________________ Historic: __________________________
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no
   Interior accessible: __yes, explain __x no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: x Second Empire __________________________ DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1872-73
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   __________________________ clapboard __________________________ asbestos siding
   x __________________________ wood shingle __________________________ asphalt siding
   __________________________ board & batten __________________________ stucco
   __________________________ aluminum siding __________________________ concrete: type: __
   x other: wooden porch
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   __________________________ wood frame; __ post and beam __ balloon
   x __________________________ load bearing masonry __________________________ structural iron or steel
   __________________________ other:
10. ROOF: type:
   __________________________ gable __________________________ flat
   x __________________________ gambrel __________________________ shed
   __________________________ hip __________________________ monitor
   __________________________ round __________________________ sawtooth
   __________________________ other
   __________________________ material:
   __________________________ wood shingle __________________________ roll asphalt
   __________________________ asphalt shingle __________________________ built up
   __________________________ tin __________________________ tile
   x __________________________ slate __________________________ other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 __________________________ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 33' x 57'
12. CONDITION: Structural: __________________________ excellent x good __________________________ fair x deteriorated
   Exterior: __________________________ excellent __________________________ good
   __________________________ fair __________________________ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when:
   Alterations: __no x yes, explain: Two story staircase added, rear
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
   __________________________ barn __________________________ shed x garage
   __________________________ carriage house __________________________ shop
   __________________________ garden __________________________ other landscape features or buildings:
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
   __________________________ open land __________________________ woodland x residential
   __________________________ commercial __________________________ industrial __________________________ rural
   __________________________ scattered buildings visible from site x high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This house is on the north side of Crescent Street. On this side of the street are closely sited 19th century houses of similar size. Directly next door to the east is a similar large brick house (Italianate). On the south side of the street is the modern Middlesex Memorial Hospital complex with a seven story brick building and accompanying parking lot.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

SIGNIFICANCE

ARCHITECT: ___________  BUILDER: ___________

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: George R. Finley (1820-1885), built this substantial residence in the spring of 1873. Finley, a native of Clinton, Ct., began his career as a peddler of "Yankee notions". He prospered after his move to Middletown in 1847, operating a grocery store, a cigar store and "Finley's Restaurant", located in the Middlesex Fruiter Building on Main Street. His wife Rachael, prominent in the Methodist Church, lived in the house after Finley's death in 1885.

The imposing quality of this house is derived from its large size and masonry construction. The exterior features are almost completely original, including the one story veranda, two-story bay window on the west side, and copper gutters and flashing. The house displays decorative features of the Second Empire style such as the scrolled brackets, mansard roof, and elaborately pedimented and bracketed dormer windows.

The George R. Finley house is representative of the high quality of suburban residential building in this area after the Civil War.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: E. Loomis  view: south
date: 2/78  negative on file: Roll 15, #6A

COMPILED BY:

name: Elizabeth Loomis  date: 3/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Conn. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; 1874 Beers Map; 1877 Bailey Map; J.R. Beers & Co., Biographical Record of Middlesex County (Chicago: 1903)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

__none known__  __highways__  __vandalism__  __developers__  __other:__
__renewal__  __private__  __deterioration__  __zoning__  __explanation: Middlesex Memorial Hospital, owners of the building, have been issued a demolition permit (3/78). They intend to demolish the building to create access to proposed core parking.__